United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General in report to Security Council stresses urgent need for cease-fire in Yemen; warns country's crisis could affect security and stability in region; will recommend deployment of United Nations military observers if there is cease-fire.

+ Secretary-General in report to Security Council on UNOMIL notes significant progress in implementation of Cotonou Agreement; will recommend reconsideration of United Nations presence, if Liberian leaders do not maintain commitment to peace process.

+ Economic and Social Council considers "An Agenda for Development" during high-level segment; discussion highlights need to eradicate poverty in order to achieve peace and development.

+ Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi strongly condemns increasing attacks against UNPROFOR personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina; warns "close air support" will be used to eliminate units deliberately targeting UNPROFOR troops.

+ Secretary-General says radio broadcasts accusing UNAMIR commander, General Romeo Dellaire of taking sides completely unfounded; says General has shown dedication and courage in difficult situation.

+ International panel of experts meets in Lusaka, Zambia, in preparation for World Summit on Social Development; will discuss deepening global dimensions of poverty.

+ India and FAO sign accord on technical cooperation between developing countries; scheme will aim to increase effectiveness of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries programmes.

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Stressing the urgent need for a cease-fire in Yemen, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned that the the country's crisis could affect security and stability in the whole region. In a report to the Security

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Council dated 27 June, the Secretary-General recommended that it make abundantly clear that the present state of affairs in Yemen could not be tolerated and that a cease-fire must go into effect without delay. The Council might also urge the two parties to cooperate with his Special Envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi in the establishment of a mechanism to supervise a cease-fire. The Secretary-General said he would recommend the deployment of United Nations military observers to supplement any supervisory mechanism, if there was a cease-fire. The parties should start a dialogue which his Special Envoy could organize in a mutually agreed neutral zone, possbily Geneva.

The Secretary-General said both sides had already agreed that a mechanism to supervise a cease-fire, would be a joint commission which included officers from both sides, representatives from Jordan and Oman, and the military attachés of France and the United States in Sana'a. However, there were still differences regarding representation from other countries.

The Secretary-General was particularly worried at the suffering of the people in the city of Aden. Fighting had intensified, in recent days, causing a dramatic increase in the number of casualties. Hospitals lacked both equipment and medical supplies to cope with the situation, the water shortage was serious and humanitarian organizations were finding it increasingly difficult to operate. Little was known about fighting eleswhere in the country, but the war there was real, with all the accompanying suffering and destruction.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the work of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) was critical to the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement and to national reconcilation efforts. In his progress report to the Security Council dated 24 June, the Secretary-General said that with the full installation of the transitional Government, significant progress had been made towards implementing the Agreement. However, the leaders of Liberia's warring factions had not yet addressed national reconciliation with the necessary resolve, compassion and commitment, resulting in increased suffering, especially among the displaced people.

The Secretary-General said the Security Council might consider laying down specific monthly targets which must be met by the Liberian parties, particularly regarding disarmament and demobilization. His Special Representative would advise the parties on how those targets could be met. He pointed out that the international community could not continue to accept delays in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement. If the Liberian leaders failed to maintain their commitment to the peace process he would have no alternative but to recommend that the Council reconsider United Nations involvement in Liberia.

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Development was a global phenomena, which could not be reduced to its economic dimension alone, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Economic and Social Council's high-level segment today, as it considered his report, "An Agenda for Development". The Secretary-General said the report emphasized that development could only be meaningful if it had a true spirit of concern for a fairer distribution of wealth. It should also be accompanied by democratization, if it is to have an objective beyond the mere accumulation of wealth. Priority attention must be given to those groups that lacked one or another dimension of development. "Above all, we must respond to the needs of the neediest", the Secretary-General stated.

General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana), said there could be no peace or development without the eradication of poverty. At the recently held World Hearings on Development, there had been almost unanimous agreement that the Agenda must propose radical reforms of the United Nations system, he noted. Some of the proposals for reform had major implications for the Economic and Social Council which should be considered during discussions of its restructuring and revitalization.

The representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, stressed that the current debate on the Agenda should lead to action and not get bogged down in redefining development. The United Nations should not be deflected from economic and social issues just to deal with crises. It should tackle the essential problems of eradication of poverty, creation of jobs, provision of education and empowerment of women. The representative of the United States said the Agenda could be a crucial weapon in the battle against chaos. If the international community was serious about preventive diplomacy, development could no longer be an adjunct of diplomacy, it must be the cutting edge.

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Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi has strongly condemned the increasing level of attacks against United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Akashi warned that UNPROFOR intended to use, without further warning, "close air support" to eliminate any unit which deliberately targeted UNPROFOR troops. He urged both parties to the conflict in Bosnia, to rigorously adhere to the terms of the 8th of June Agreement, and to exercise maximum restraint. Mr. Akashi's statement came after a British soldier was killed by a sniper bullet on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Government offensive in northern Bosnia was continuing but with less intensity than in recent days, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Akashi was especially concerned about remarks attributed to Bonsian Army Commander General Rasim Delic, suggesting his army planned offensive military operations in coming days.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has become increasingly concerned at hostile radio broadcasts from the Government controlled zone in Rwanda

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against the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) Force Commander, General Romeo Dellaire. The radio reports had accused General Dellaire and other UNAMIR staff of being partial, of taking sides and of working against one of the parties in Rwanda, according to a Spokesman for the Organization.

The Secretary-General considered the allegations completely unfounded and stressed that General Dellaire had his full confidence and support, the spokesman said. The General has discharged his functions with dedication and courage in a difficult situation, despite minimal resources and his impartiality could not be questioned. The Secretary-General has demanded that the hostile broadcasts be halted and reminded both parties that they were responsible for the safety and security of all UNAMIR personnel.

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An international panel of experts is meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, to discuss the deepening global dimensions of poverty. The panel is also hoping to come up with solutions amid United Nations calls for a compelling new approach to development. The meeting is examining such issues as the effectiveness of poverty-reduction strategies; how to enhance the contributions of women and minority groups to economic development; the social consequences of structural adjustment; and the role of non-governmental organizations and local communities in the struggle against poverty.

The meeting has brought together some 30 social scientists and development specialists from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Easern Europe and the developed world. The experts are meeting in preparation for next year's World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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India has become the first country to signal its participation in a scheme for technical cooperation between developing countries, following an accord signed by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and India's Minister for Agriculture. A large number of other countries have expressed interest in the initative launched by the FAO to increase the effectiveness of programmes in developing countries

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said there was a vast untapped expertise in many developing countries, as well as those in transition, that could be put to use in increasing food production and food security in needy parts of the world. The scheme aims to foster technical cooperation among developing counries in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Expenses will be shared by countries providing the experts, the beneficiary country and the FAO.

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